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Number of unemployed in Madras City.

* 208-A *Q.*—Sri S. PAKKIRISWAMY PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state whether the Government have ascertained the number of able-bodied young men unemployed in the City of Madras?

The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO:—" The number of unemployed able-bodied young men between the ages 18—25 as registered in the Employment Exchange, Madras, is 6,455. No other investigation has been made into the unemployment of this class of men."

Sri V. BALAKRISHNAN:—" Sir, do the Government maintain any register for the registration of the able-bodied young women who are unemployed? "

The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO:—" In the employment exchange, yes, Sir; but in the Government office itself, no."

Sri M. VENKATASUBBA REDDI:—" Have the Government any positive programme for finding employment for those who are unemployed? "

The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO:—" The employment exchanges are meant to give them employment; we hope that the big managements and industries will avail themselves of the services of the employment exchanges."

Sri T. NAGI REDDI:—" Are the Government aware that 70,000 street-dwellers are in the Madras City to-day and that only a small number has come to the notice of the employment exchanges, viz., 6,000 and odd, and almost all of them are unemployed, and that the City is fast growing into a city of unemployed people and beggars? "

The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO:—" The problem of unemployment and begging is a very vast problem; it is not peculiar to this City alone, it is common to the whole State, and the Government are fully aware of the situation."

Sri M. VENKATASUBBA REDDI:—" Since employment is the greatest capital for the advancement of the country, will the Government consider the desirability of prohibiting begging by the able-bodied and of providing the beggars with alternative employment, as they are doing in the Bombay State? "

The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO:—" Even here in the Madras State, the Government are taking very good measures for finding employment for able-bodied beggars. But it is a problem which cannot be discussed in answer to a question."

Sri C. RAJAM RAMASWAMI:—" Is it not a fact that most of these people belong to places outside the Madras City and they have come to seek employment in the City? "

The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO:—" I am unable to answer that question; but if a separate question is put, I shall examine it and answer."

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SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" May I know the percentage of persons who applied to the employment exchanges and who were given employment and the average percentage for the whole year? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I should like to have notice, Sir."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" Are the Government aware that most of the able-bodied people are not going to the employment exchange offices to register themselves, and if so, what steps the Government propose to take to make it known to them that they should go to the employment exchange and register their names? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" If only the hon. Member would go to the employment exchange, he would see for himself the tremendous rush of applications. The only solution seems to me to appeal to the hon. Member to ask all his friends who are unemployed, to register themselves in the employment exchange."

SRI C. V. K. RAO :—" Is there any possibility of securing some relief to these able-bodied unemployed persons before they totally become disabled? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The duty of providing employment for able-bodied men is not a Government duty alone; it is the duty of every industrialist, of every citizen as well as of the Government."

SRI M. NARAYANASWAMI :—" In view of the formation of the separate Andhra State, does the Hon. Minister think that the number will increase, and if so, what plans has he got to meet the situation? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I only hope that in the new State of Andhra there will be less unemployed; and to that extent, any co-operation which the Madras Government can offer will certainly be at the disposal of the new Andhra State."

The Metal Industries, Limited, Shoranur.

* 208-B. *Q.*—SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Metal Industries, Limited Shoranur, Malabar, has been re-opened; and

(*b*) if so, whether the workers have been paid any subsistence wages during the period of the closure of the factory?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" (*a*) No, Sir.

" (*b*) Does not arise."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" May I know why the Government do not take steps to reopen the factory and have its management under them? "